

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**SB 439 - HB 1089**

March 17, 2015

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Requires parents to have access to test questions and their student's responses on the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) tests, end-of-course exams (EOC), or other state-required standardized assessments within 30 days of the last test administration. Requires the Department of Education (DOE) to provide a parent, upon the parent's request, a username and password that will authorize the parent to view the parent's children's test, answers, or a paper copy of the test and the student's answers. Any electronic access that is provided shall be on a secure website on servers maintained by the state or a state contracted vendor. Requires teachers to have access to a test administered to a student and the student's answers to assist the teacher in determining the student's mastery of state standards. Limits a teacher's access to tests and answers for students that the teacher is currently teaching in the tested subjects.

Requires a local education agency (LEA) to notify parents on how they can view the test questions and their students' answers during the annual notification of parents on tests that shall be administered during the academic year. Information relative to test viewing shall also be included in each LEA's student handbook or other policy guidebook.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Expenditures - \$19,171,122/FY15-16**

**Exceeds \$19,171,122/FY16-17 and Subsequent Years**

**Assumptions:**

- Based on information received from the DOE, the department will use its data vendor to open a website that will provide secure access to tests and answer questions. Based on vendor supplied information, the cost for the website is estimated to be \$3,000,000 each fiscal year beginning in FY15-16.
- Currently state law requires standardized test items to be at least 70 percent refreshed and non-redundant each year.
- Under this bill, the DOE will need to generate a 100 percent new test each fiscal year, beginning in FY15-16.
- Each test will require annual field testing which will include administration, scoring, reporting, and psychometric services.
- The DOE has provided a detailed breakout of the difference in state expenditures between what the state is currently spending on assessments and the increase in state expenditures to meet the requirements of this bill.

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- The total increase in state expenditures in FY15-16 is estimated to be \$19,171,122, which includes the new website; field testing of new tests; refreshing all test questions; psychometric services; scoring; and other budget items relative to test administration.
- The increase in state expenditures in FY16-17 and subsequent years is estimated to exceed \$19,171,122.
- Testing required by the federal government for certain population of students will not be made available for viewing.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jeffrey L. Spalding". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeffrey L. Spalding, Executive Director

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